

The Advisor

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Operations!

Iraqi Signal School

Teaching Leadership

1 Million Gallons of Water

MNSTC-I

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Cover Photo: A soldier from the Iraqi Intervention Force patrols the streets near Taji
Photo by U.S. Navy JOC Joe Kane
MNSTC-I Public Affairs

Iraqi, U.S. Leaders Assess Security Situation in Mosul

*By Jim Garamone
American Forces Press Service*

MOSUL, Iraq - It's the rainy season in Ninewa province, and the mud sticks to your boots the way old ideas stick in your mind. But rain also washes away the mud, and officials hope the elections Jan. 30 will wash away the old ideas governing this country.

U.S. Army Lt. Gen. David Petraeus, commander of the Multinational Security Transition Command-Iraq; Iraqi armed forces chief Gen. Babakir Zebari; and Iraqi ground forces commander Army Maj. Gen. Abdul Qadr led a trip to Ninewa to get the latest on the security situation for the elections.

More than 20,000 Iraqi and coalition troops are now in Ninewa province, the largest number since the 101st Airborne Division left last year. Most are concentrated in Mosul, Iraq's third-largest city with a population of around 2 million.

As election day approaches, military and police officials anticipate an increase in attacks in the region. The trend in the region is up, with an average of more than 100 attacks each week.

Two battalions of American troops have augmented Task Force Olympia in the area, and several battalions of Iraqi army and Iraqi police have moved into and within the region to help provide security for the high-stakes election next week.

And Mosul needs the help, officials said. In November, insurgents leaving Fallujah infiltrated the province. They began a campaign of bombings, killings, kidnappings and intimidation. Religious fundamentalists and former regime die-hards found, at least temporarily, common ground as the campaign continued.

Iraqi police were among the first victims of the insurgents. Coordinated attacks against police stations and an irresolute response from the police resulted in a security meltdown. Some police fought the insurgents, but most deserted their posts. The result: insurgents had almost free rein to intimidate Mosul residents. Almost all election officials in the city quit their posts, and the city was in turmoil.

The Iraqi interim government brought in units, and with units of the 1st Brigade, 25th Infantry Division, imposed some order on the city. But the rebuilding and the electoral process stalled, officials said.

Since December, Iraqi and coalition officials have been working to improve the security situation and regain electoral momentum. They have largely succeeded. While the trend of attacks is up, coalition and Iraqi forces have tamped down the violence. Iraqi officials said the election will happen in Ninewa province. "It won't be what you would get in the United States, but it will happen," said Babakir through an interpreter.

U.S. officials agreed that the process will "not be pretty." Mosul has roughly 1 million eligible voters. As plans stand, they will walk to polling places, where they will go through increasing levels of security checks. At the polling places, which will be under Iraqi control, they will cast their ballots for the members of the 275-member national assembly that will write Iraq's new constitution.

U.S. forces will stand by and act as a quick-reaction force ready to respond if asked. Iraqi officials in the regional Joint Coordination Center in Mosul will monitor the situation. A recent rehearsal allowed officials to identify and correct deficiencies in the plans. "Insh'allah (God willing), we will be ready," said Iraqi Facilities Protection Service Brigadier Moataz, the commander at the JCC.

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11 Graduate From First Iraqi Signal School

Story and photos by U.S. Air Force Tech. Sgt. Andrew Hugan MNSTC-I Public Affairs

BAGHDAD, Iraq - Eleven Iraqi soldiers graduated from the first Iraqi military signal school course here, Jan. 19. The soldiers selected to attend are serving in various Iraqi army units and the Ministry of Defense in Baghdad.

“There is no army without training,” said Iraqi army Staff Col. Ahmed Saad, the Iraqi army director of communications. “This school is the first step in training our army in the latest communication technologies.”

This course was the first of three phases; classroom, field training and advanced communication.

Currently, the Iraqi army has limited communication capability around the country, according to U.S. Army Col. John Graham, the Multi-National Security Transition Command – Iraq, director of communications.

“It has been a challenge in Iraq because a lot of places do not have any communications and we have been tasked to provide them equipment and infrastructure, satellite phones, UHF and HF radios, and cellular services at different bases,” Graham said.

The initial course of instruction was basic communication tactics, equipment and antennas. Follow-on phases will include radio operation, communication theories, frequency management and satellite communications.

“Our friends at MNSTC-I helped us start this school,” Saad said, “we will now be able to use the knowledge we have learned to teach others in the Iraqi army about communications.”

According to Graham, the mission of the Signal Corps is to provide a commander in the field the ability to talk to with their units. “Sometimes that means going from hand and arm signals to satellite technology. Soon, Iraqi commanders will be able to talk to any soldier anywhere in the country,” Graham said.

The two-week course was taught by Coalition soldiers from



Iraqi army Staff Col. Ahmed Saad talks to the 11 graduates of the first Iraqi military signal school just before receiving their graduation certificates.

the MNSTC-I J-6, but future classes will be taught by Iraqis.

“The Iraqi Army is new and signal is a huge part of providing communication,” Graham said. “We started this course and will start a signal unit to fulfill the different needs of the units engaged in combat.”

When the students finish the three phases of training they will train other communication specialists in the Iraqi army. This effort will enhance the commander’s ability to communicate the orders and directives of a combat situation.

“It’s important that they know how to use the equipment we are providing,” Col. Graham said. “It’s a first step!”

Iraqi Army’s 8th Brigade graduates multiple classes

By U.S. Air Force Tech. Sgt. Andrew Hugan MNSTC-I Public Affairs

BAGHDAD, Iraq – Approximately 900 Iraqi soldiers from the 8th Brigade, 3rd Division graduated from basic military training at Al Kasik Military Training Base, Jan. 16. In addition, 13 soldiers at the base completed a medical training program.

After four months of challenging basic military training, soldiers added their names to the list of those who wish to serve their country and can now call themselves soldiers in the Iraqi army.

Iraqi army 3rd Division Commander, Maj. Gen. Khursheed Saleem Hassan said, “God and our people will be loyal and faithful to our mission and country,” and that Iraq’s soldiers “defend Iraq against all its enemies to the last drop of our blood.”

Upon completion of its initial training phase, 8th Brigade

will join the 3rd Division and begin tactical operations in support of election security within Ninewa Province. The 3rd Division consists of three infantry brigades; two have now completed initial training and are operating in northwestern Iraq.

The medical soldiers were trained in field medical techniques and basic combat lifesaver skills. They will return to their units to provide frontline medical support to the 3rd Division of the Iraqi army. The course, developed by U.S. Navy Corpsmen at Al Kasik, has been recognized by the Minister of Health as a model for medical training in each Iraqi unit.

Graduates each received medical aid bags as tangible symbols of their new responsibilities and advanced medical training.

Iraqi Security Forces Help Secure Country Prior to Elections

EDITOR'S NOTE: BAGHDAD, Iraq - Iraqi Security Forces are demonstrating competence and enthusiasm in ongoing operations with Coalition Forces all over Iraq. Report after report of successful missions are streaming in, many of which are recounted in this issue.

Coalition forces have increased their offensive activities in preparation for the Iraqi elections. Despite aggressive insurgent attacks throughout the country, momentum can be felt by those involved in the training and equipping of Iraqi security forces in the face of increasing violence. As preparations for election day continue, countless Iraqi police and military personnel are being deployed to play an important role in the defense of the democratic process.

Backed by Coalition Forces, Iraqi security forces will provide protection for the first popularly elected parliament in the nation's history.

As military and police training academies and institutions graduate more Iraqi security forces, new candidates are constantly being recruited.

201st discovers weapons cache

TIKRIT, Iraq - An Iraqi army soldier identified a munitions round buried in the ground while conducting a joint patrol in Kadasia with Alpha Company, 1-112th Infantry, Jan. 12. Members of the 201st Iraqi army and Task Force 1-18 Infantry, secured the area and continued to investigate the area.

After all the munitions had been uncovered, the cache was found to contain 17 105mm artillery rounds, four 152mm artillery rounds, 15 rifle grenades, seven 57mm anti aircraft rounds and six 100mm tank rounds. Had they not been captured, the rounds could have produced more than 35 improvised explosive devices.

The 201st Iraqi army soldiers have received multiple unexploded ordinance identification classes and training exercises focused on identification and removal of munitions from Soldiers of Task Force 1-18.

Discovery of munitions caches continues to improve the confidence of the 201st Iraqi army as the information and techniques from training is applied to combat patrols and proving successful.

Lt. Col. Amir, the 201st Iraqi army battalion executive officer expressed his confidence with the 201st Iraqi army and their most recent success defeating the insurgents in and around Tikrit.

"The soldiers are successful because of all their training," Amir said. They are seeing the benefits from the training they received from the Vanguard Battalion."

Operations net weapons, 16 suspects

MOSUL, Iraq - Iraqi National Guard and Coalition Forces from 1st Brigade, 25th Infantry Division (Stryker Combat Team), confiscated weapons, ammunition, and bomb equipment, and detained 16 individuals during operations in northern Iraq Jan. 14.

Soldiers of the 109th Iraqi National Guard and 2nd Battalion, 14th Cavalry Regiment discovered a weapons cache, which included rocket-propelled grenades, projectile fuses and ammunition, in the town of Avgani during cordon and search operations. The 109th and 2-14th also detained nine people suspected of being associated with the cache.

Multinational forces Soldiers also discovered a cache of weapons, ammunition and military intelligence during a cordon and search in Mosul. The Soldiers detained five individuals suspected of being associated with the cache. Suspects are in custody.

Soldiers of the 2nd Battalion, 8th Field Artillery Regiment, confiscated weapons and ammunition during a cordon and search in Tal Az Bah. The 2-8th also detained two individuals suspected of being associated with the weapons.

Military officials have said although the Mosul area is not completely safe, with each seizure and removal of dangerous weapons and detention of anti-Iraqi insurgents the situations is becoming safer. Since January Iraqi Security Forces and multinational forces have detained 113 individuals.

Joint raid leads to detention, confiscation

MOSUL, Iraq - Multinational forces and soldiers from the Iraqi army detained two suspected anti-Iraqi insurgents and confiscated a large amount of bomb-making materials and weapons Jan. 14 in northern Iraq.

Iraqi army and multinational force Soldiers conducted a raid of a house in Ad Duluiyah, which resulted in the detention of a suspected anti-Iraqi insurgent cell leader and one close associate. The Soldiers discovered 500 kilograms of ammonium nitrate and 55 gallons of diesel fuel oil, chemicals known to be primary ingredients of a high explosive used in previous insurgent attacks, other bomb-making materials and weapons and ammunition. Both suspects are in custody. The weapons and munitions were confiscated for future destruction.

Iraqi Forces Find Illicit Weapons

BAGHDAD, Iraq - Iraqi soldiers from the 2nd Brigade, 3rd Battalion working with the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force near Fallujah completed two patrols and found a weapons cache, grenades and detained two individuals Jan 16. The 8th Battalion, also in Fallujah, found a small weapons cache on the same day.

Iraqi army and Coalition forces continue to work together throughout the country to suppress anti Iraqi forces violence and provide a safe environment for the Iraqi people.

On Jan. 18 the Iraqi army's 7th Brigade's, 16th, 17th and 18th Battalions working with the 1st MEF in Fallujah conducted stability operations and humanitarian assistance mission.

ISF Forces detain insurgents

FORWARD OPERATING CALDWELL, Iraq - Iraqi police from Khanaqin were engaged by six anti-Iraqi forces in two vehicles Jan. 17. The police were shot at and fled to a nearby Iraqi army checkpoint.

Coordination through the Khanaqin Joint Coordination Center enabled the Iraqi army soldiers to be prepared for the arrival of the Iraqi police and the anti Iraqi forces.

When the vehicle reached the checkpoint, Iraqi army personnel quickly defused the situation by surrounding the vehicle and detaining the six insurgents. Moments later, multinational forces who were conducting training at another checkpoint arrived at the scene along with other Iraqi army soldiers to help with the situation but found the situation was under control.

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Iraqi Security Forces Help Secure Country Prior to Elections

Following the detainment, the homes of the six suspects were searched to reveal more weapons and documents. In all, four AK- 47s, five pistols, one Mauser sniper rifle, weapons magazines, a cell phone, several documents (believed to be used for making false identification cards), two vehicles and a bayonet were confiscated.

Iraqi Security Forces discover cache

MOSUL, Iraq - Iraqi security forces discovered a cache of weapons and munitions in northern Iraq Jan. 18.

Based on a tip given by a local citizen, soldiers of the Kurdish Security Forces discovered a cache of weapons and munitions in Al Zumar. The cache included rifles, rocket-propelled grenades, several mortar rounds and hundreds of rounds of ammunition.

The weapons and munitions were confiscated for future destruction.

Iraqi forces discover cache in Fallujah

CAMP BLUE DIAMOND, Iraq – Soldiers from the 3rd Iraqi Intervention Force discovered a weapons cache in northern Fallujah Jan.18.

Soldiers found seven rocket propelled grenades, one rocket launcher, two unidentified rockets, four grenades, 1,500 machine gun rounds, a machine gun sighting system and several RPG igniters.

In addition, Marines and Soldiers from the 1st Marine Division of the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force detained 41 suspected insurgents and discovered several weapons caches during operations throughout Al Anbar Province.

Iraqi Security Forces detain nine

MOSUL, Iraq - Multinational forces from Iraqi security forces and 1st Brigade, 25th Infantry Division (Stryker Brigade Combat Team), confiscated weapons and ammunition, and detained nine people during operations in northern Iraq Jan. 18.

In other operations Iraqi army soldiers from the 12th Battalion detained three anti-Iraqi insurgents east of Mosul following an exchange of small-arms fire. Two of the insurgents were wounded during the exchange. They were evacuated to a local hospital. The insurgents remain in custody.

And finally, soldiers of the 3rd

Brigade, 21st Infantry Regiment, detained six people for violating curfew in eastern Mosul. After a search of the car 3-21st Soldiers confiscated weapons and ammunition.

Iraqi Intervention Force soldiers detained an individual suspected of anti-Iraqi activities after conducting a cordon and search of the Omar Abed Alkhtab Mosque.

Ten caches found in the last week

MOSUL, Iraq - Iraqi Security Forces and multinational forces continue to discover, confiscate, and destroy weapons caches throughout northern Iraq.

Since Jan. 10, ISF and MNF personnel have found 10 weapons and munitions caches in the Mosul area. These caches have included numerous rifles, grenades, grenade launchers, mortar rounds, artillery rounds, bomb ignition devices, other bomb making equipment, and intelligence information. Coalition forces continue to conduct cordon and search operations in order to find weapons and munitions caches.

Iraqi 306th takes portion of Sadr City

BAGHDAD, Iraq - The Iraqi army's 306th Battalion, 40th Brigade, an element of the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, assumed responsibility for security operations in a portion of the Sadr City area.

U.S. Army Lt. Col. Gary Volesky, commander of 2nd Battalion, 5th Cavalry Regiment, Lancers, passed symbolic colors to 306th Commander Iraqi army Lt. Col. Hussein Musin Bahar Al-Freejy, an eastern Baghdad native, in a ceremony Jan. 18.

Sadr City, an area of intermittent unrest since the Lancers arrived in Iraq almost a year ago, is home to an estimated 2.5 million people.

Several areas throughout the country have been transferred to Iraqi security forces in the last few months, moving toward the ultimate multinational forces goal of an autonomous Iraqi security force and Iraqi government.

The transfer was very timely, Hussein said.

"The transfer is very important, especially for the elections," Al-Freejy

said through an interpreter. "There is a great need for the people to know that the U.S. is transferring authority to the Iraqi army."

Security operations are nothing new to the Soldiers of the 306th. The unit has been working in the Sadr City area with 2-5 Cavalry on raids, patrols and checkpoints, aiding in the capture of numerous terrorists, insurgents and weapons caches.

"My men have gained a lot of experience," Al-Freejy said. "Our friends, the Americans have given us a lot of training. I'm positive my men are ready. The elections will be a test. We are determined to pass this crisis successfully."

The 306th are taking the first step of the goal for the Iraqi army to secure all of Iraq, Volesky said in a speech during the ceremony.

"This was one of many tasks we were charged with when we arrived -- getting Iraqis out front, in charge of their country," Volesky said. "We see another example of this becoming a reality today. Hussein and his soldiers have worked extremely hard to get to where they are today. I am confident the 306th will continue to assume a greater role in the security of all of Sadr City. We look forward to the day when we turn all of the responsibility for security of Iraq to the Iraqi security forces."

Iraqi Army Operations

BAQUBAH, Iraq - The 204th Iraqi army battalion conducted three operations Jan. 18. The first operation, a patrol in Baqubah, detained Ahmed Abdullah Nasiaf and confiscated 16 60mm mortar rounds, one mortar tube and a battery pack that is associated with improvised explosive devices and rocket launchers.

The second operation was conducted in Khalis where the unit detained Hashum Mehdi Hussein Al Tai. A third raid, also conducted in Khalis, led to the capture of Ahsan Abd Ali Khadhim Al Obaydi. The two are suspected leaders in Khalis insurgency and have conducted attacks on Iraqi forces, according to the 204th Battalion.

Information recovered from the Baqubah raid points to Ahmed Abdullah, Nasiaf's son, Ali, an insurgent who fought in Fallujah and Baqubah. Ali, 204th

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Iraqi Security Forces cont.

officials say, was involved in the slaying of 50 Iraqi army soldiers in October 2004.

Iraqi Army Soldiers detain suspect

TIKRIT, Iraq – 201st Iraqi army soldiers detained an anti-Iraqi force suspect at a traffic control point in northern Tikrit, Jan. 20. The individual is suspected of funding insurgent cells in the Tikrit area. The detainee was taken to a multinational forces detention facility.

Weapons Found in Fallujah

BAGHDAD, Iraq – A local civilian provided information about a suspected improvised explosive device to Iraqi soldiers from the 2nd Brigade, 3rd Battalion of the Iraqi Intervention Force working with the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force near Fallujah Jan 20.

Upon investigation soldiers found one 155mm round with a wiring device attached, the civilian also turned over plastic explosive.

Iraqi army and Coalition forces continue to work together throughout the country to suppress anti-Iraqi forces violence and provide a safe environment for the Iraqi people

Insurgents Killed, Captured in Mosul

BAGHDAD, Iraq – Soldiers from the Iraqi army's 1st Division, 1st Battalion killed one insurgent and captured another in Mosul Jan. 21.

The soldiers received mortar fire and observed insurgents firing a mortar from approximately 500 meters away. The Iraqi army soldiers engaged the enemy with direct fire. They found one abandoned 82mm mortar tube.

While searching a house in the vicinity, Iraqi soldiers engaged the enemy, killed one insurgent and captured another who was using a cell phone to provide positions for attacks. A search of a nearby school yielded one sniper rifle.

Iraqi Forces repel insurgents

MOSUL, Iraq - Iraqi security forces were able to repel repeated anti-Iraqi insurgent attacks in northern Iraq Jan. 21.

Iraqi Intervention Forces repelled insurgent attacks on a train station in southern Mosul. The insurgents tried to overtake the train station, but were defeated by IIF soldiers.

Training and Equipping in Iraq

Iraqi Navy NCO Course Begins

UMM QASR, Iraq – The Iraqi Navy began a Non-Commissioned Officer Instructor course here Jan. 16 to enhance enlisted leadership and develop an NCO/Instructor cadre and organization within the Iraqi Navy and Iraqi Naval Battalion.

Forty five students from the Iraqi Navy and Iraqi Naval Battalion were selected for the course based on their experience and leadership potential.

The course curriculum will include classes on principals and methods of instruction, leadership and exercise planning and NCO conduct.

Course instructors are from the Iraqi Navy's training department and assisted by Coalition Military Assistance Training Teams.

The students will graduate in approximately six weeks.

CH2000 Aircraft Delivered to Basrah

BAGHDAD, Iraq – The Iraqi air force's 70th Squadron took possession of the first two American-made SAMA CH2000 light air surveillance aircraft, Jan. 17, in Basrah.

The Iraqi air force will receive two CH2000 airplanes per month – with final deliveries completing the \$5.8 million acquisition in the spring of 2005. An option to purchase an additional eight aircraft, on a similar monthly schedule, has yet to be exercised.

The CH2000 is a two-seat single engine-prop airplane.

"This is the second stage of building the air force," Iraqi Air Force Commanding General, Maj. Gen. Kamal Al-Barzanjy said. "There will be many stages in the future."

"We will cover all lands in Iraq from two flight circles based in Basrah and Kirkuk and reaching down to Baghdad," Al-Barzanjy said. "With these airplanes we can cover pipelines, electrical facilities, and our borders."

The new aircraft has special imaging capabilities and complements the similarly equipped SEEKER aircraft allowing missions to run at all hours. Operations will continue out of Basrah with the 70th Squadron crews and will be supported from Kirkuk

when a second squadron stands up early next year.

The air force will also continue to coordinate flight missions with Iraqi and Multinational forces on the ground.

"These planes," Al-Barzanjy said, "will enable us to fly reconnaissance day or night."

Iraqi's Graduate 670 From Training

BAGHDAD, Iraq – The Iraqi army graduated an Iraqi Intervention Force brigade of 670 soldiers from direct recruit replacement training at Taji Military Training Base, Jan. 18, as part of the Iraqi government's ongoing effort to stand up its armed forces.

IIF training includes eight weeks of basic soldiering, weapons, and drill and ceremony instruction as well as physical training. IIF units also negotiate special military operations in urban terrain training.

"MOUT" training runs soldiers through street fighting and building clearing operations instruction common to combat actions against insurgent forces in cities and towns. The IIF is the Iraqi army's counterinsurgency force.

23 Intelligence Soldiers Graduate

BAGHDAD, Iraq – Twenty three Iraqi army intelligence officers graduated from a military intelligence course taught by a Coalition intelligence military training team at Al Kasik Military Training Base, Jan. 18, as part of the Iraqi government's ongoing effort to stand up its armed forces.

The students are from the 4th and 8th Brigades of the 3rd Division and their battalions are based at Al Kasik.

The instructors are all U.S. Marines, Soldiers and Airmen from Fort Huachuca, AZ and the U.S. Naval Intelligence Command, Hawaii.

The training includes three weeks of division, battalion and brigade level intelligence training, data analysis, evaluation and interpretation techniques.

Multi-National Security Transition Command Trains, Equips Iraqi Forces

By Jim Garamone
American Forces Press Service

MOSUL, Iraq, – “It’s like building an airplane while you are already in flight,” is how one official at Multi-National Security Transition Command - Iraq describes building the Iraqi security forces.

The command is responsible for training and equipping the Iraqi army and the Iraqi police. The coalition formed it following the disappointing showing of the Iraqi security forces during radical cleric Muqtada al-Sadr’s uprising in April. U.S. Army Lt. Gen. David Petraeus is the commander.

Petraeus led the 101st Airborne Division from Kuwait to Mosul during the initial phases of Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2003. He returned to Iraq in 2004 to assume his current multinational command. He came back to Mosul to assess the readiness of the Iraqi military to protect the population during the Jan. 30 election.

The Iraqi 2nd Division is responsible for Mosul and is based in Al Kidni – where a brigade of the 101st Airborne had its headquarters. But control is a relative thing. The headquarters has a skeleton staff right now. The normal personnel- intelligence-operations-logistics system Americans are used to is nonexistent. “They are building this under fire, so to speak,” Petraeus said, “like all aspects of the Iraqi military.”

Iraqi soldiers are trained primarily as light infantrymen for now. They run through an eight-week basic training and then go into unit training. They then deploy against the insurgents. Where there are capable leaders, there are capable units, said officials. And, they added, that at the company, battalion and brigade levels, there are many capable leaders.

The units did well in fighting in Fallujah, said coalition military officials. The units held various parts of Fallujah and helped Marines and soldiers clear mosques, schools and other sensitive areas. Now those units are building on those hard-won lessons and continuing the fight.

And the coalition has learned as well. Iraqi units have coalition advisers embedded in them as they enter combat. The 98th Training Division – an Army Reserve unit based in Rochester, N.Y. – has provided the bulk of the advisers. “This allows the Iraqis to call for fire or air support or medical evacuation more easily,” Petraeus said.

It also allows the coalition to continue on-the-job training as the Iraqi unit goes operational.

In addition, the units often are paired with coalition forces. For example, at Al Kisik Military Training Base northwest of Mosul, the U.S. 1st Battalion, 5th Infantry Regiment, works with an Iraqi division’s units. The American soldiers set an example for the Iraqi troops and help them as they plan and initiate operations.

But problems exist above the brigade level. Building a staff and a command and control apparatus under fire is tough. Divisions also have to develop the infrastructure needed to assign troops to a unit, pay them and get them health care.

There is little in the way of intelligence analysis and in operational planning, and the division level has too little expertise and even less infrastructure to supply the forces with food, fuel

and ammunition.

No army infrastructure exists above the division level. The Iraqi army has to develop a finance corps, training cadre, personnel system and so on, officials said.

Beyond army level is the government, and that is just starting out. For example, no banking system is in place, so Iraq is a cash economy. At the battalion level, this means that when soldiers get paid, they have to travel home to deliver that pay to their families.

The Iraqi military forces continue to grow and continue to gain experience, Petraeus said. But they are only part of the equation. The Iraqi police also are part of the security solution.

The police have not covered themselves with glory in combating the insurgents, and in some cases actually colluded with the enemy. In fighting in Fallujah and Samarra, police refused to engage insurgents in any fashion. In Mosul, police stations came under attack from insurgents, and most policemen simply melted away.

Part of this was because the police are locally hired and insurgents can get to families, if not the police themselves, and part is because police typically work individually or with one partner, Petraeus said. They are on their own, and susceptible to intimidation.

In Mosul, between 1,200 and 1,500 police remained on their beats. They must form the core of any rebuilding, officials said. After the elections, police units brought in from other areas will remain to combat the insurgents and give the local authorities a chance to rebuild the police.

Other initiatives are in the works. In Samarra, the police refused to move on insurgents and again melted away. Army Maj. Gen. John Batiste, the 1st Infantry Division commander, said in a recent interview that 350 police will be trained as a unit and deployed as a unit to Samarra. He hopes that will give the police the cohesion needed to combat the insurgent threat in the city.

Building the army and police to take over the security mission is the “exit strategy” for Iraq in a nutshell, officials said. The effort will continue and accelerate in the weeks and months ahead, they added.

MNSTC-I Equipment Update

The Multi-National Security Transition Command - Iraq issued the following equipment to the Iraqi security forces in the past week.

Ammunition	3,067,900 rounds
Body Armor	2,000
AK-47s	870
Uniforms	524
Pistols	437
Vehicles	50

Leadership Passed On To Iraqi Troops

By U.S. Army Spc. Erik LeDrew,
122nd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

BAGHDAD, Iraq - The first junior-leadership skills development course for Iraqi National Guard soldiers graduated Jan. 15 at Forward Operating Base Independence in western Baghdad.

The class of ING platoon leaders, platoon sergeants and squad leaders from the 302nd Iraqi National Guard Battalion was planned and run by U.S. Army Soldiers of the 1st Battalion, 9th Cavalry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division.

"The official title for the course is Team Leader Course," said U.S. Army Master Sgt. Steve Overby, lead trainer for the course, of Headquarters Company, 1-9 Cavalry. "We covered primary leadership development-type [skills] in the class. Basically, what we teach our Soldiers, but tailored to the Iraqi army's standards.

"We omitted things that don't apply to them, like how to counsel Soldiers," the Livermore, Calif. native added.

The course lasted a total of five days, starting Jan. 9 when the Cavalry troopers administered an Army Physical Fitness Test to the Iraqi soldiers, and ending with a graduation ceremony held the morning of Jan. 15 at the ING compound on FOB Independence.

"After we administered the [fitness test]," Overby said, "we spent the rest of the day discussing leadership responsibilities."

The following day, the ING troops were put through an obstacle course, crawling under wire, climbing rope and jumping over walls.

"We made them do it as a team, of course, which builds confidence in their ability to work together," Overby said.

After being given a first aid class later that afternoon, the students went through a simulated training exercise.

"The last thing they did on the second day was go through an STX where basically they had to move from point

A to point B, take simulated contact and return fire, treat a simulated casualty and get them medevaced," he said. "This forced them to put to use everything they had learned up to that point."

After spending the third day at a firing range, the Iraqi soldiers had to endure battle-focused physical training on the fourth day, in which they were required to move as a team around a 1-mile track on the FOB, and pick things up along the way like ammunition, medical supplies and a mock-wounded person on a stretcher, all while being timed.

"Again, the whole concept with this training was to put them in a stressful situation, tire them out and force the leaders to step up and keep everyone else motivated, as well as come up with on-the-spot solutions to the problems they encountered along the way," he said.

On the final day, the students were given a simulated operation order to complete a mission.

"The students themselves then had to turn around, plan the mission and execute it using everything they've learned up to this point," Overby said.

According to Overby, the aspect of training that he and the rest of his training cadre emphasized the most during the team leader course were mission rehearsals.

"They don't usually do rehearsals, but we made them do it during the course, and when they actually executed the missions we gave them, they did outstanding," he said. "I was very impressed. By the end of the

course, they finally realized how important it is to rehearse, rehearse, rehearse."

According to Overby, this course was the first of its kind taught to the 302nd ING Battalion, but the guidelines for it had been taken directly from a course he and the training cadre had given three times to the Soldiers of 1-9 Cavalry over the course of the deployment.



U.S. Army Lt. Col. Thomas MacDonald, commander, 1st Battalion, 9th Cavalry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, and the battalion's senior non-commissioned officer, Command Sgt. Maj. Donald Felt, congratulate Iraqi soldiers on successfully completing a junior leadership skills development course at a graduation ceremony held at Forward Operating Base Independence in Baghdad Jan. 15.

Photo by U.S. Army Spc. Erik LeDrew, 122nd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

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1 Million Gallons of Fresh Water For Iraqi Soldiers

*Story and photos by U.S. Air Force Tech. Sgt. Andrew Hughan
MNSTC-I Public Affairs*

AN NUMINIYAH, Iraq - In the desert water can be the most important resource, and supplying water for thousands of Iraqi soldiers in basic training and Coalition soldiers here is a critical mission that Multi-National Security Transition Command – Iraq engineers have nearly completed.

A potable water treatment facility, with almost a million gallons of fresh water storage is in the final testing for pressure and water quality before being brought on-line.

Currently water is brought to the base in trucks from town and transferred to another truck at a front gate transfer point, then pumped into storage tanks for use in base kitchens, dorms and bathrooms.

“This plant and storage tank will be able to supply the base with fresh water for three or four days,” said U.S. Navy Lt. j.g. Martin Ranalli, the An Numaniyah base engineering officer and Multi-National Security Transition Command – Iraq J-7 representative.

Having a treatment facility on base is also safer for soldiers and staff.

“A water truck could be used as a vehicle improvised explosive device at the front gate of the base,” said Ranalli. “Having our own plant here eliminates using the trucks to transfer the water, we are eliminating one threat at a time” he continued.

The water for the plant comes from the Tigris River 15 kilometers away. The pump station on the river and the miles of pipeline were built by a contractor next to an existing aqueduct.

Once the water comes onto the base it’s put into large detention ponds more than 100 feet long, 40 feet wide and 12 feet deep. The large pieces of sediment settle to the bottom, then water is then pumped into the filtration system, where the finer sediment is removed and then into the large storage tank.

The last step before the water goes to the base is chlorination. According to Ranalli, the water here will be treated to meet U.S.



Potable water from the storage tank is piped to the final chlorination station before being distributed to the base.



U.S. Navy Lt. j.g. Martin Ranalli, the An Numaniyah base engineering officer, stands in front of the water storage tank. The tank holds nearly 1 million gallons of fresh water.

health standards and distributed around the base in recently installed pipes.

The \$2.3 million project can make enough water to supply 20,000 Iraqi soldiers and Coalition members with 200 liters (52 gallons) a day.

“Having this much water available will make it much easier for the kitchen to make meals for the soldiers that eat here,” said Noul Abu Salim, the Iraqi food production manager for the consolidated kitchen.

The Advisor

Space permitting, MNSTC-I Public Affairs will re-print your e-mails, letters to the editor and/or article submissions. Appropriate submissions include the important developments in your section or unit that would be of interest to our readers. Please write to: pao@mnstci.iraq.centcom.mil

Gifts - An Ethics Refresher

By U.S. Army 1st Lt. James F. Gettens
MNSTC-I Office of the Staff Judge Advocate

BAGHDAD, Iraq - You are a U.S. service member far from home. You don't have, but covet, a pair of WileyX-brand sunglasses/goggles. The PX to which you have access is inadequate, to say the least, so you are unable to find any locally. Does that mean, in your capacity as GI Joe, that you may write to your hometown sporting goods store or eyewear retailer, or even to the manufacturer, and request a donated pair of WileyXs? No, you may not.

This and other gift issues are governed by the Joint Ethics Regulation (JER), DoD 5500.7-R. Bottom Line Up Front: Public service is a public trust. You cannot use your official position for personal gain or benefit or for the benefit of others you know.

Gift Definition: A gift is anything of value, including cash, an item, a discount, personal services, entertainment, or a meal for which one does not return fair compensation from one's personal resources.

Gifts From Outside Sources: As a service member never solicit a gift from an outside source and never coerce or influence an outside source to make a gift to you, a family member, friend, associate, or favorite charity. Do not accept, or permit a family member or relative to accept, a gift from any outside source with which you have any official business, oversight functions, or regulatory authority (prohibited sources). An example would be accepting a gift from a merchant from whom you solicited a bid for goods or services to be paid for with U.S. Government funds, or from an Iraqi government official whose department seeks funds through this Command.

Exclusions and Exceptions: There are numerous exclusions and exceptions to the foregoing prohibitions including unsolicited non-cash gifts having a value of \$20 or less per source/per occasion, so long as the total from that source in a calendar year does not exceed \$50 in value. Other exclusions or exceptions include snacks and beverages apart from a meal; greeting cards or other items of little intrinsic value; "service member discounts"; gifts stemming from family or personal relationships other than a personal relationship with a subordinate; and certain meals, refreshments and entertainment in foreign areas, in the course of official duties during which foreign nationals are present, from trade associations or the equivalent but not from foreign government officials.

Notwithstanding those exclusions and exceptions, service members should never permit even small gifts to influence them in the performance of their duties and should never accept so many small gifts as to give the appearance of profiting from official duty.

Foreign Gifts: Service members may accept a non-cash gift or combination of gifts having "minimal value" - U.S. retail value of \$285 or less, currently - tendered and received as a souvenir or mark of courtesy from a foreign government. Any such gifts exceeding that value shall be turned over to, and become the property of, the United States. One should

probably decline a gift from a foreign government official with whom one has conducted U.S. government business either as a "prohibited source" gift or to eliminate any appearance of impropriety.

Gifts Between or Among Service Members: Generally, service members shall not make a gift, a donation for a gift, or solicit donations from other service members for a gift, to be bestowed on an "official superior." A service member shall not accept a gift from another service member of lower rank unless the two are personal friends and not in a superior-subordinate relationship.

Exceptions: Unsolicited gifts (non-cash) worth \$10 or less may be given to a superior on an occasional basis (not routine) at traditional gift-giving times such as birthdays and Christmas.

On special infrequent occasions, such as a change of command when an official superior is leaving, service members may be solicited to make voluntary (not coerced or pressed) cash contributions toward a purchased (non-cash) group gift totaling up to \$300 in value. In such an instance a subordinate may voluntarily contribute more than \$10 toward the group gift even though he cannot be asked to give more than \$10.

Ethics questions may be addressed to the Office of the Staff Judge Advocate.

FORCE PROTECTION TIP

Indirect Fire Plan

Due to our heightened physical and procedural security measures and the capability of the U.S. military to respond to direct attacks, indirect fire has become the preferred method for launching attacks against U.S. and coalition facilities.

When an indirect fire attack is underway, the Regional Security Office Tactical Operations Center will sound the siren and/or make an announcement over the public address system. All personnel will be instructed to take the following steps upon hearing the siren/announcement or the actual impact/sound of incoming rounds:

Personnel located inside of a building must immediately move away from all windows and doors. Seek cover under desks, tables, behind stonewalls or on the floor to prevent injury.

Personnel outside of a building must seek cover in the nearest bunker or hardened shelter.

Personnel in the housing area are advised to remain in their quarters and seek shelter under a desk or bed, away from any window. If personnel can safely move to nearest bunker, do so.

All personnel will remain under cover and within sheltered areas until the RSO TOC announces "ALL CLEAR" on the public address system.

All personnel should wear their personal protective equipment during any indirect fire attack.

DO NOT go to any impact location to see what is going on unless you will be rendering medical assistance.

Chief, Army Reserve Visits MNSTC-I



*U.S. Army Lt. Gen. James R. Helmly, Chief, U.S. Army Reserve talks with Soldiers from the Multi-National Security Transition Command - Iraq at Phoenix Base Jan. 18.
Photo by U.S. Air Force Tech. Sgt. Andrew Hughan MNSTC-I Public Affairs*

Mosul Continued from page 2

Babakir also was encouraging. “We have enough troops in the city,” he said through an interpreter. In addition to providing site security around polling places, the troops will be stationed at combat outposts ready to move at a moment’s notice.

Petraeus said Iraqi units in the city should be up to strength in time for the elections. He said that the Iraqi army units – many of which were Iraqi National Guard units until they were absorbed into the army Jan. 6 – have been conducting independent operations against the insurgents. “The Iraqis are the ones who are best able to spot the insurgents,” he said. “They can spot the different accent. They can make an on-the-spot translation of documents and move quickly, and they are gaining capability every day.”

And the increase in Iraqi numbers and capabilities is important to Iraq and the

coalition, Petraeus said. “The way to defeat the insurgents is to apply pressure across the board,” he said. Applying pressure in only one place allows the insurgents to leave the area and regroup somewhere else, he said. The increased numbers of Iraqi units will allow that constant pressure across the country, he said.

While Iraqi and coalition forces are geared to Jan. 30, they are quick to say they are not ignoring the on-going threat. Insurgents will continue to try and intimidate the populace, they will attempt to assassinate those who win the election, and they will continue to plant improvised explosive devices and vehicle-borne IEDs, officials said. The increased number of Iraqi forces will remain in the city for the foreseeable future, Qadr said. “Until the police service is rebuilt in Mosul, we must stay,” he said. “We will remain faithful soldiers of this country.”

Leadership Continued from page 8

“We originally designed this for our junior leaders,” he said. “We decided it would be a good idea to teach the Iraqi army, so that they could turn around and teach this stuff to the rest of their guys.”

The next team leader course will be held in February and, according to Command Sgt. Maj. Donald Felt, 1-9 Cavalry’s senior non-commissioned officer, the ultimate intent of teaching the course is to train the Iraqi soldiers to be able to train their own troops.

“Six of the Iraqi soldiers that did really well in this class also happen to speak English very well and will come back to teach the second class with us,” he said. “Then the third class will be entirely Iraqi taught.”

Tasks such as those taught in this course will likely prove essential when the Iraqi army assumes full responsibility for patrolling 1-9 Cavalry’s area of responsibility which includes Baghdad’s infamous “Haifa Street.”

“Our patrols go out there. Your patrols go out there,” Lt. Col. Thomas MacDonald, commander of Task Force 1-9 Cavalry, told the Iraqi Soldiers at their graduation ceremony. Everywhere [the insurgents] see our uniforms, and your uniforms. And they’re scared.”

MNSTC-I Marine Weaves New Friendships

**U.S. Marine Corps Sgt. Clinton Firstbrook
Combined Press Information Center**

BAGHDAD, Iraq - When thinking of what Marines do in their spare time in Iraq, making friendship bracelets probably doesn't pop into your head.

However when U.S. Marine Corps Cpl. Aaron Chudosky comes home from work from the Multi-National Security Transition Command-Iraq administration office, that is exactly what he does.

"I saw one of my friends wearing one over here and I asked if she could teach me how to make them," Chudosky said. "They looked cool and I wanted something else to help pass the time other than going to the gym. The busier you are, the faster time goes by."

Working with various colors of 5-50 cord and buttons off of camouflaged uniforms, in the past two months Chudosky has made more than 100 bracelets for service members and civilians stationed in Iraq.

"It took me a few days to learn the ins and outs to make the weave tighter and look better," Chudosky said. "At first I just made them for friends and co-workers, but then I would hang them on my flak jacket to show them off and people would come up and ask if I was selling them or where they could get one."

With the price set for this man-made piece of organic jewelry costing one button or a donation of 5-50 cord, many of his customers have said they've never encountered a better deal.

"Some people have told me I should charge 15 to 20 dollars per band on eBay, but it's not about the money for me," said Chudosky. "Although if they aren't willing to give up a button, the 5-50 cord to make it and want more than one, I charge five dollars. Those who bought them can say that a Marine in Iraq made

this wristband and the button on it is off one of my own uniforms that I wore during my tour."

While many people know Chudosky as the wristband maker, he still gets a few questioning faces when he tells customers that he's the person who made them.

"People don't expect a Marine to sit down and take the time to do something like this," Chudosky said. "People think of Marines as always serious, because we're expected to maintain a high standard of discipline. No matter how known I become for making these, there will always be someone surprised when they hear a Marine made this."



**U.S. Marine Corps Cpl. Aaron Chudosky burns an end to one of his tactical wristbands, made from 5-50 cord and a button, melting the frayed cord so it will not come apart on its future owner. Photo by U.S. Marine Corps Sgt. Clinton Firstbrook
Combined Press Information Center**

Every night Chudosky sits in his foldout lawn chair watching TV completing an order for at least one wristband.

"I've seen him stay up too many times making those things," said Italian Navy Sgt. Michele Romanazzi,

Chudosky's roommate. "It's relaxing to watch him start with just two pieces of cord and a button then turn it into a wristband in a few minutes."

Unfortunately, the Post Exchange near his office only carries green 5-50 cord, so Chudosky has to scavenge for other colors to work with.

"Whenever one of my friends goes on a trip to another base I ask them if they can check out the PX and see if they have any other colors available," Chudosky said. "So far I've used white, tan, green, gray and black; mix and matching them depending on what the customer wants. You really can't get any other kinds unless you mail

order them so those are the colors I'm limited to here."

When people inquire about his work, Chudosky jokes with them when they ask him if they're hard to make.

"If you aren't proficient at calculus then there's no way you'd be able to make one by yourself," Chudosky said. "No, it's not too difficult to pick up. Once you get the hang of it you're golden. Right now it only takes me around 15 minutes to make one start to finish and I can't even braid my wife's hair."

While Chudosky jokes about his hobby, don't ask him to make you a bracelet, because that's not what he does.

"I don't think of them as bracelets," Chudosky said. "Marines don't wear bracelets. These are tactical wristbands."

In late January Chudosky's tour will come to an end, which he says will

also end his weaving extra-curricular activities.

"I'll make them for family members and friends if I'm asked, but when I get home I'm retiring from tactical wristband making," Chudosky said.

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Fair Winds and Following Seas



*U.S. Marine Corps Sgt. Maj. Claudio R. Brown, Multi-National Security Transition Command - Iraq outgoing command sergeant major receives his Bronze Star Medal from MNSTC-I Commanding General U.S. Army Lt. Gen. David Petraeus at a ceremony Jan. 22 at Phoenix Base.
Photo by U.S. Air Force Tech. Sgt. Andrew Hughan MNSTC-I Public Affairs*

Weaving Continued

So his wristbands would continue to grace the arms of service members in Iraq, Chudosky passed on his secrets to one of his co-workers to continue his craft.

"I wanted him to make me one so I could give it to my wife when I return as well," Lance Cpl. Stephen Tassin, an administration clerk said. "Instead of giving me one, he taught me how to do it, so it'd mean more when my wife received it. I'm not as good as him yet, but I'm getting there."

For Chudosky, these wristbands symbolize accomplishment. He believes completing a four, six, 12 or 18-month tour is an accomplishment on its own and everyone should be proud of what they did here.

"When you look down at your wrist, these wristbands bring back the memories from your time here," Chudosky said. "I want to remember all of the places I went to, the friends I made and the events I experienced. This wristband is going to keep me from forgetting those memories. I never thought I'd be over here making something like this, but I'm glad I started."

Pvt. Murphy By Master Sgt. Mark Baker



FINAL FRAMES



The main conference room at the Multi-National Security Transition Command - Iraq was named and dedicated for U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Todd Cornell who was killed in action Nov. 9, 2004 in Fallutah, while serving as an advisor to Iraqi military forces. The room at Phoenix Base in Baghdad is now known as the Cornell Conference Room.